

Bill No. SB 862

Barcode 420278    Comm: RCS    03/21/2006 04:06 PM

583-1934-06

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Domestic Security

1                                    A bill to be entitled

2                    An act relating to emergency management;

3                    providing legislative findings with respect to

4                    the need for improvements in the state's

5                    infrastructure in response to the hurricane

6                    seasons of 2004 and 2005; providing for the

7                    Legislature to make funds available to local

8                    agencies through appropriations to the

9                    Department of Community Affairs; providing

10                   criteria for an appropriation to fund the

11                   construction or renovation of county emergency

12                   operations centers; providing limitations on

13                   the use of such funds; providing criteria for

14                   an appropriation to fund equipping public

15                   special-needs hurricane evacuation shelters

16                   with the permanent capacity to generate

17                   emergency power; providing criteria for an

18                   appropriation for retrofitting public hurricane

19                   evacuation shelters; providing for funds to be

20                   appropriated to improve the logistical staging

21                   and warehouse capacity of commodities used

22                   following a disaster; providing criteria for an

23                   appropriation to establish a regional hurricane

24                   evacuation shelter pilot program; providing an

25                   effective date.

26

27    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

28

29                    Section 1. The Legislature finds that there is a

30 compelling need for improvements in infrastructure, as

31 identified during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, in

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1 order to better protect the residents of this state. The  
2 Legislature shall make funds available to local agencies  
3 through appropriations to the Department of Community Affairs  
4 for the purpose of meeting these needs, based on criteria  
5 established in this section, for county emergency operations  
6 centers, emergency power for public special-needs hurricane  
7 evacuation shelters, public hurricane evacuation shelter  
8 retrofits, improved logistical staging and warehouse capacity  
9 for commodities, and regional shelters. The criteria in this  
10 section shall be used by the Legislature to determine  
11 eligibility for funding.

12 (1) The Legislature finds that county emergency  
13 operations centers should meet the minimum criteria for  
14 structural survivability and sufficiency of operational space,  
15 as determined by assessments performed by the Department of  
16 Community Affairs based on guidance from the Federal Emergency  
17 Management Agency. Criteria for an appropriation for a county  
18 emergency operations center include, but are not limited to,  
19 county population, hurricane evacuation clearance time for the  
20 vulnerable population of the county, structural survivability  
21 of the existing emergency operations center, and FEMA guidance  
22 for workspace requirements for the emergency operations  
23 center. First priority for funding shall be for county  
24 emergency operations centers where no survivable facility  
25 exists and where workspace deficits exist. Funding provided  
26 under this section may not be used for land acquisition or  
27 recurring expenditures. Funding is limited to the construction  
28 or structural renovation of the county emergency operations  
29 center in order to meet national workspace recommendations and  
30 may not be used to purchase equipment, furnishings,  
31 communications, or operational systems.

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1       (2) The Legislature finds that all designated public  
2 special-needs hurricane evacuation shelters should be equipped  
3 with permanent emergency power generating capacity in order to  
4 provide the necessary equipment, heating, ventilation, and  
5 air-conditioning to meet the medical needs of patients by June  
6 1, 2007. An appropriation for equipping a public special-needs  
7 hurricane evacuation shelter with permanent emergency power  
8 may also be used in coordination with local communities in  
9 order to increase the number of shelter spaces available and  
10 ensure that there is a sufficient number of public  
11 special-needs shelters designated to meet the anticipated  
12 demand based on best available data as determined by the  
13 Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Health.

14       (3) The Legislature finds that retrofitting public  
15 hurricane evacuation shelters is an efficient and economical  
16 method of accelerating the state and local efforts to reduce  
17 the shelter deficit. Criteria for an appropriation for the  
18 retrofitting of a public hurricane evacuation shelter include,  
19 but are not limited to, the project's ability to meet the  
20 structural and siting requirements of American Red Cross  
21 Standard ARC 4496, "Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation  
22 Shelter Selection," once completed; the shelter needs for the  
23 local government as well as the overall needs of the hurricane  
24 evacuation planning region; the cost-effectiveness of the  
25 project in terms of the number of public hurricane evacuation  
26 spaces; and the priority ranking of the proposed project in  
27 the applicable local mitigation strategy.

28       (4) The Legislature finds that improved logistical  
29 staging and warehouse capacity for commodities will help  
30 ensure that adequate supplies, equipment, and commodities are  
31 available and accessible to respond to disasters. Appropriated

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1 funds may be used for increasing storage capacity; improving  
2 technologies to manage commodities; and enhancing the ability  
3 to maintain in a safe and secure manner an inventory of  
4 supplies, equipment, and commodities that would be needed in  
5 the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

6 (5) The Legislature finds that regional hurricane  
7 evacuation shelters are an efficient and economical method of  
8 providing additional shelter space and that the establishment  
9 of a regional hurricane evacuation shelter pilot program will  
10 encourage local governments to assist with reducing the  
11 shelter deficit. Criteria for an appropriation for a regional  
12 hurricane evacuation shelter include, but are not limited to,  
13 the project's ability to meet the structural and siting  
14 requirements of American Red Cross Standard ARC 4496,  
15 "Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Selection," once  
16 completed; the location of the project with respect to the  
17 communities' public hurricane evacuation shelter deficit and  
18 the public hurricane evacuation shelter deficit of the  
19 hurricane evacuation planning region where the facility is  
20 located; the cost-effectiveness of the project in terms of the  
21 number of public hurricane evacuation spaces; and an  
22 interlocal agreement by two or more local governments to  
23 operate the facility.

24 Section 2. This bill shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.